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OLG celebrated the winning $70 million LOTTO MAX lottery ticket sold at Kinmount Independent Grocer on Feb. 20, 2024. See more photos on page 8. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Re-Open the Minden ER goes to Queen's Park

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

On April 22, 2024, Patrick Porzuczek, founder of Minden Matters and Re-Open the Minden ER went to Queen's Park to participate in the public hearings on Bill 180.

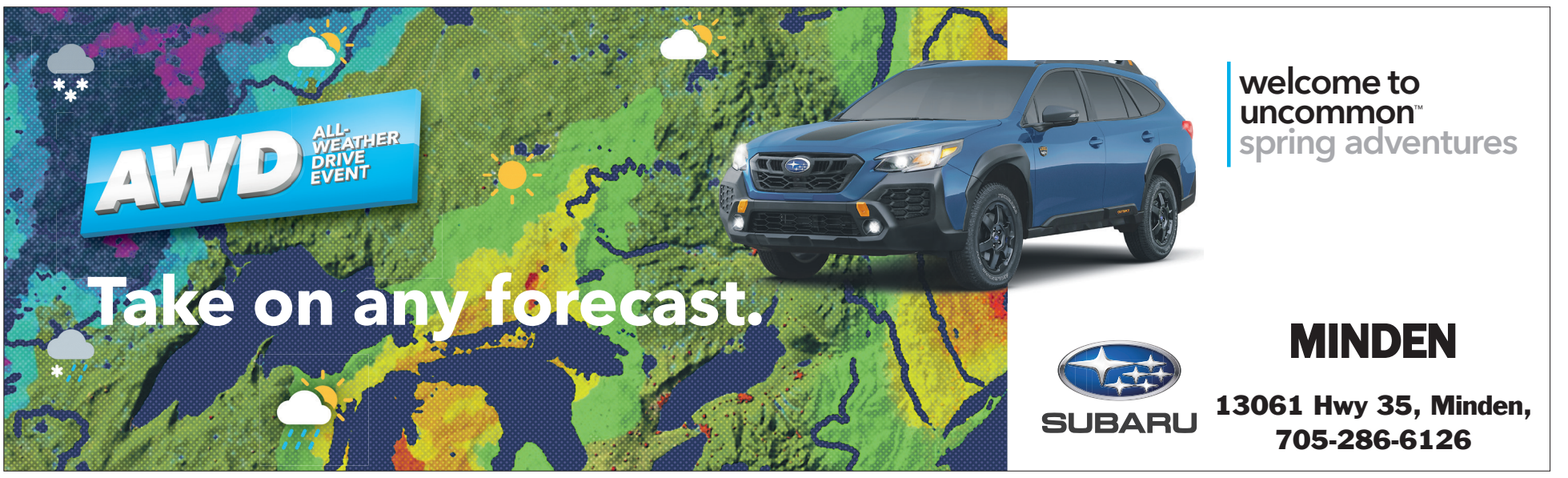
"On April 20th, 2024 it marked the one year anniversary of the permanent closure of the Minden ER, which came as a surprise to our community. The closure was announced by HHHS without prior notice, public consolation, or opportunity for the community to explore alternative options," opens Porzuczek.

"Lives are at stake and the under funding by the government is exacerbating the situation," Porzuczek said. "It is distressing for residents like us in Minden and the entire catchment area given our rural status. The burden of additional costs for services and reliance on private clinics is particularly challenging in the rural setting which greatly differs from the urban settings." "For myself, the fight is about my daughter. Waiting over 30 minutes for EMS to come to my home, because my daughter was in the middle of a cardiac disturbance is unacceptable. A father on route to Haliburton during a cardiac episode lost his life if the Minden ED was open, there is a great possibility that that life could have been saved as the travelling distance was much shorter. A child at the Canada Day fishing derby had a hook lodged in her eye, only two minutes away from the permanently closed Minden ER, was transported by EMS thirty minutes away," Porzuczek said.

"Doctors are advising a patient not to summer at their seasonal property in Minden due to lack of emergency care to deal with her and her husband's health issues if it's needed. A car accident victim suffered in agonizing pain on the helipad at the now-closed Minden ER. As they waited for Air Ornge, this patient could have been treated, stabilized, and medicated prior to transport."

The closure of the Minden ER had a significant impact on our community, depriving us of quick, accessible, high quality

see MINDEN page 2



Minden ER the guinea pig for closures

from page 1

care, especially for our vulnerable population," Porzuczek said.

"The Ontario Health Coalition reported 1,199 closures, vital ER departments for the year 2023. How many lives were lost because of these temporary and permanent closures," asked Porzuczek.

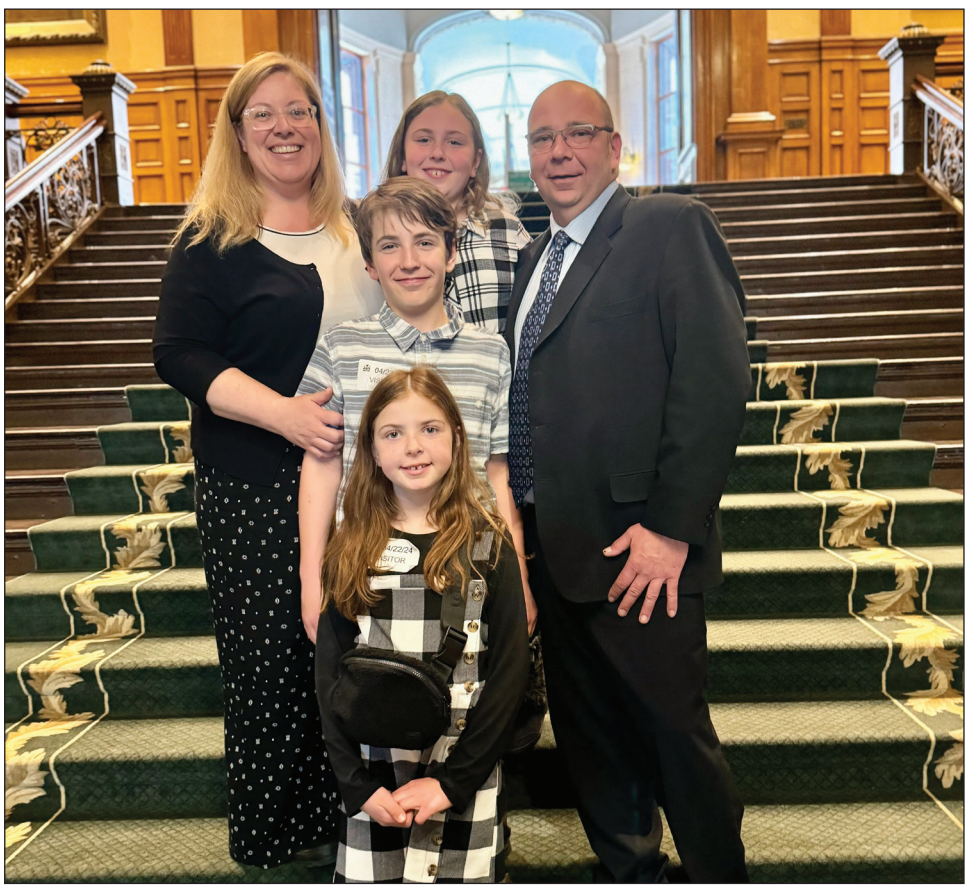
"Just one of these hospitals was a permanent closure. The Minden ER, which has never even had one temporary closure in its history was closed."

"Your government has just made a commitment to nearly $1,000,000,000 to build two brand new hospitals an hour away, 25 minutes apart from each other while Minden and our county is left without an adequate emergency and healthcare services."

"The recent Ontario budget, Building a Better Ontario fails to meet the healthcare needs of rural Ontario. The four per cent increase for healthcare in this budget does not allocate sufficient funding for healthcare. It needs to be adjusted to the rate of inflation and account for the aging population," Porzuczek said. "Spending needs to be drastically increased to six per cent or higher, nor does the new budget embrace the findings and recommendations of the Auditor General's report on emergency room closures."

"Their number one conclusion currently: we are unable to ensure continuous availability of timely and patient centred emergency care in Ontario," Porzuczek said.

"Health care is the heart of the community," Porzuczek said. "Its broad impact in Minden has seen a negative impact on housing, resale value, tourism, small business prosperity and overall growth of the township. To address these healthcare challengers, immediate action is required. Firstly, the Minden ER should be reopened and without delay. Secondly, a new pilot program should be implemented, utilizing both nurse practitioners and our ER to reduce patient wait times and deviate stress on healthcare professionals, ultimately leading to better patient outcomes. Additionally, a rural doctor program should be established offering incentives and extra certifications and credits in rural healthcare for newly graduating doctors. The same approach can be applied to nurse practitioners facilitating a better understanding of unique dynamics of rural healthcare. Furthermore, efforts should be made to bring back the foreign doctors and Canadian doctors who pursued their education overseas due to the overcrowding of domestic universities. Minden can serve as the platform to gain experience and certification and to reintegrate these doctors into the Canadian and Ontario healthcare system."



Patrick Porzuczek and his family represented Re-Open Minden ER in Queen's Park on April 22. /Submitted

"Lastly, more needs to be done to improve doctor and nurse retention and healthcare professionals in rural Ontario. Particularly in Minden and Haliburton offering better wages, creating dedicated housing for incoming doctors to help remove the barriers and attract healthcare professionals and adapt to rural living."

"We elected you and we are counting on you to fix rural healthcare, reopen Minden ER. Live depend on it and let's build a better Ontario," closed Porzuczek.

"You've described it very well. A pro-privatization agenda is not only fiscally irresponsible but it's also very elitist," Terence Kernaghan, MPP of London North Centre said. This Conservative government has taken and continues to take rural Ontario for granted. Nobody likes to be taken or granted. Rural Ontarians are smart and they have a long, long memory."

"We basically lost our guardian, the mother of our community," Porzuczek said. "Minden was loved by everybody."

"I've pounded on chests of patients in the Minden ER, I used to be a volunteer firefighter. I've also helped stabilize patients in the ER with EMS on route to the hospital. I've been directly involved but also involved as a family member and myself. I've been cardioverted three times for my own heart disturbance. Having this government force hospital boards to pay unfathomable amounts of money to have agency nurses and doctors to fill shifts, there is no shortage of nurses and doctors that are available," Porzuczek said.

"What's your next step in trying to get this government to reopen Minden ER, like, what's the next step," asks Andrea Hazell, MPP of Scarborough-Guildwood.

"We're gonna keep stepping up. The community is gonna keep rising up and letting the people know. More cities and towns are going to start standing up," Porzuczek said.

"A little town in Ontario made such noise that we were heard nationally. The noise is just going to keep getting stronger, especially when these other little towns start to speak up and take a stance for our healthcare," Porzuczek said.

"What happened in Minden is something we've never seen before, quite honestly," Catherine Fife, MPP of Waterloo said. "Maybe it happened in Fort Erie a long time ago but no consultation whatsoever, even, I think, your mayor was blindsided. No communication, the public was given only six weeks notice, so it was steamrolled through. There is no plan of any substance to ensure that people are safe."

"The story has changed a few times, right," asks Fife. "The public statements now from the HHHS CEO Veronica Nelson, beginning shortly after Minden ER was permanently closed now blame insufficient structural based funding for operational challenges and you note that these funding struggles were not disclosed during the Minden ED closure process mere months later. Why do you think the story changed on why Minden closed."

"The story changed because we need to be a guinea pig," Porzuczek said. "We need to start somewhere. There is so much happening within Ontario that is focusing on a two tier system: the agencies, privatizations, and what have you. The best way to do it is: let's start removing the thing that doesn't really make Ontario money. It's more of a cost than it is a profit and that's healthcare. So by removing it and taking away from the people, giving them just a little bit so they can hold onto, it's disheartening."

"The Ontario ombudsman deemed a meeting to be illegal and so they deemed that meeting which discussed the decision making process surrounding the decision to close Minden ER, they deemed that meeting to be held in camera, so held behind closed doors when it legally, was not allowed to."

"Only the board can close a hospital in partnership with the Ministry of Health," Jeff Nicholls said. "What can [the CEO] do? They can consolidate. Why did Minden call it a consolidation, because closing the Minden ER with six weeks notice with no consultation would have literally been illegal and would have breached the MSAA that exists between the hospital and the ministry."

"Using the word consolidation was basically a distraction or bypassed the legality of closing the emergency room within a six week notice. You're quite right though, if they can do this in Minden, then they can do this to any hospital in Ontario," Fife said.

"I wanted to give you one last message to give to this government other than open Minden ER, which we actually have said we will do, which we will fund healthcare appropriately," Fife said.

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Knee-slapping shindig comes to Minden

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

The Highlands Festival Singers are back at it again to bring a rip-roaring, laugh out loud concert for adults, kids, and families from throughout the county. The Highlands Festival Singers started over thirty years ago and have been performing concerts in both the spring and the winter. This May, the Highlands Festival Singers are performing their showcase titled Just for Laughs: "A Concert that is designed to tickle your funny bone and bring big smiles and laughs."

Beth Kipping, president of Highlands Festival Singers has been involved with the group for around 17 years.

"Music is a big part of my life," Kipping said. "It's kind of nice to sing in a choir when someone else is directing. It's a great way to meet friends up here. The concerts are just the icing on the cake."

"It's just fun all the way through. The choir's laughing and smiling throughout the rehearsal. We felt it was time to do something just for fun. They can just sit back, enjoy, and have a laugh," Kipping said.

The choice of performing a comedic showcase was from Director Melissa Stephens.

"It was Melissa, she started choosing things. I chose the title, 'Just for Laughs' and things went from there."

Concerts for the Highlands Festival Singers usually take place at the Haliburton United Church. This year, the singers are bringing the show back to Minden at the Highlands Hills United Church in Minden.

"Come out and have fun. Kids will enjoy this concert. A lot of songs we are doing are nursery rhymes related. We are also doing 'Cat Came Back' and kids would have fun with that. I feel like we are appealing to a larger crowd."

There is one song called 'The Laughing Song' that is sung by laughing. It is a very cool song to sing. Also the 'Black Fly Song' which everyone up here will enjoy," Kipping said with a laugh.

Tickets for adults are $20 and for children and youth under 18, Kipping has requested that you call 7054574916. Tickets can be purchased at Master's Bookstore, Minden Pharmasave.

Due to popular demand, it is highly recommend tickets are purchased before they completely sell out,

Highlands Festival Singers perform their Winter Wonderland of Song concert in December. /Submitted

Ctrl Art Del's new play really cuts the mustard

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

Local theatre company Ctrl Art Del is taking the stage again to bring *Mustard* by Kat Sandler to the Performing Arts Pavillion in Haliburton. Sandler won the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Play for Mustard in 2016.

"Mustard is a Canadian play by Kat Sandler. It's a coming of age story and a dark comedy. The idea is that when every human is born, they have something called a boon, which is like an imaginary best friend that's assigned to them and the boon stays with them until they are about five or six years old," Stage Manager Amy Leis said.

Thai, the protagonist of Mustard, has a boon that never left. His name is Mustard and he lives under her bed.

"Something that's cute and funny when you're six is less funny when you are 16," Leis said.

Ctrl Art Del began rehearsing Mustard shortly after their Valentine's Cabaret showcase in February.

Mustard is Leis's favourite play. "I love this show. *Mustard* is a show that I was exposed to back in theatre school," Leis said.

"The characters are not necessarily nice people. They are angry and loud and don't necessarily treat each other politely," Leis said.

"I just fell in love with it. It's such an intelligently written show about change and about accepting really hard goodbyes that are sometimes necessary for growing up. It's also a very trauma informed play, which I greatly appreciate. I also found that a lot of shows don't actually portray what it really feels like to be a 16 year old girl and Thai is about as close as they come to reflecting reality."

Ctrl Art Del's 2024 production of *Mustard* stars Valerie Zagorska as Leslie, Chris Chumbley as Mustard and Jessica McCready-DeBruin as Bug. /Submitted

"In this show, every character has a lovely, well defined, easy to follow character arc," Director Tim Nicholson said. "Kat did an extraordinary job, making my laugh as a director so much easier. It;s a lovely piece to direct as you know where the character is starting, where the characters finish and all you need to do is point out the obvious to your actors. It's hard to describe, it's a cacophonous play as everyone speaks at once trying to get their voices heard."

"It's been a joy to direct," Nicholson said. "We have four teenagers in this show, very young and very inexperienced. I have watched these four kids rise to the occasion and grow with their characters and grow as individual people outside of the theatre."

"Our female lead is a high school teacher. This is her first time ever on stage and I'm watching her and wondering why she's never been on stage before," Nicholson said. "I give her a note and she brings such emotion and such power to her character. It's hard for me to fathom this is her first time appearing on stage."

"It's a great show for high school and up. It's often very, very funny, and I hope lots of people will come see it," Leis said.

Performances of Mustard will be taking place on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday will also have a matinee show at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets for *Mustard* can be purchased at the door and online at tickets.ctrlartdel.ca/tickets. Adults are $40 and students are $20.

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• Connection and Response, an exhibit by conceptual artist Bruce Cull, will be on display until June 8 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, 176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden. Open Tuesday – Saturday, 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission is by donation. For more info: https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2024-04-04-1000-Connection-and-Response-An-Exhibit-by-Bruce-Cull

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Is your family prepared for an emergency? Emergency Preparedness week encourages Canadians to know the risks; make a plan; and have an emergency kit. Visit getprepared.gc.ca for more information.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL, IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:
• **May 9** – Regular Council Meeting
• **May 30** – Regular Council Meeting
• **June 13** – Regular Council Meeting
• **June 27** – Regular Council Meeting
Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal at https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx. Visit our website for more information.

SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS (HALF LOADS) IN EFFECT

Half Load weight restrictions are placed on roadways and posted each year in the spring for approximately 1-2 months. Persons contravening this regulation will be prosecuted under Section 122 of The Highway Traffic Act. Please watch for and obey posted signage. Visit www.mindenhills.ca for updates.

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FIRST RESPONDERS DAY OPEN HOUSE

First Responders Day Open House Wednesday, May 1, 2024 visit the Township of Minden Hills Fire Hall (12418 Hwy. 35, Minden) from 3 to 7 p.m. tour the trucks and meet our firefighters.

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Cottage succession planning information at your fingertips

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**
Times Staff

For many families with cottages, there comes a time when selling may seem like the best option for various reasons.

The process can not only be heart-wrenching, but also tumultuous for family dynamics.

Anthony VanLieshout, long-time Highlands resident and broker of record for Royal LePage Lakes of Haliburton, recently released his book, *Cottage Succession Planning: Don't let the government inherit your cottage*, to offer tips and information for families that find themselves ready to list their cottage.

"Selling the principal residence? No problem. Smooth sailing. Selling the cottage, or a non-principal residence? Strap in. Whether it's the government taking their share, or the family not understanding what's at stake, it can be a heart-wrenching process either way. Family dynamics can often be volatile at the best of times. But when the possibility of taking away the cherished family vacation spot is added to the mix, it's like dropping a match on a pile of tinder," reads the book's description.

VanLieshout has been in the local real estate business for the past 38 years.

"You come across a lot of family situations when selling their cottage or home, and often a lot of those emotions are associated with cottages moreso because it's a place of recreation. It's usually the place where a family gets together more often," VanLieshout said.

He gave an example of an elderly woman who approached him to sell her cottage.

"At some point she said to me, 'Anthony I feel like I'm giving up one of my children.' It speaks to the magnitude of what a person's association with their cottage is."

Often, next generations of families may not want the cottage to be sold.

"At the same time, they may not be around to help with the work or maintenance required. For a lot of the older generation, the equity that they have in their cottage is the main part of their retirement portfolio, and they need that money. It's really contentious," VanLieshout said.

In another example, one woman ended up having to pay $200,000 in capital gains while gifting her cottage to her children.

"She didn't have that money. She went from having equity if she sold it to instead gifting the cottage and having to come up with that extra money. It put her in a very difficult position."

With those two stories in mind, VanLieshout knew property owners could benefit from gaining more information about succession planning.

Fifteen years ago, he held cottage succession planning seminars locally with guest lawyers and financial planners for about 400 people with great success.

Since then, countless more examples of families running into trouble when discussing succession planning moved him to write the book.

"That's what the book is about, too, getting the conversation going with the experts. So talking to your lawyer, talking to your financial advisor, those are the experts if a family is looking to keep a property."

VanLieshout worked with Wade Greer, owner of For the Love of Marketing, to help create the book.

Cottage Succession Planning: Don't let the government inherit your cottage can be picked up at both Haliburton and Minden Royal LePage locations, or it can be ordered on Amazon.

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Previous low county taxes yields 'unfunded liability'

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton County has a rather unique demographic position as seen through an audit of last year.

Oscar Poloni, a managing partner with the auditing firm KPMG LLP, met with county council April 24 and presented a draft of Haliburton County's consolidated financial statements for the period ending Dec. 31, 2023.

Poloni compared Haliburton County to Elgin, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington, Perth, and Peterborough in the year-end report.

Haliburton County was second to Peterborough in number of households, but was lowest in population, operating costs, and household income.

Haliburton County has more households than it does residents. That's the nature of any cottage region where part-time summer residents flee the winter months in favour of primary homes elsewhere.

That makes it difficult to compare the finances of Haliburton County to other jurisdictions.

"If we rearrange the numbers a little bit and look at the operating cost by population, we actually do compare very favourably that way," Deputy Councillor Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills said.

He said many county costs such as the various social programs and the paramedic service are driven by population as opposed to households.

"That becomes difficult in trying to do these comparisons," Carter said.

There's been a focus over the years by successive county councils to keep the tax levy as low as possible. And that, he said, resulted in under-spending on crucial infrastructure.

That's created an "unfunded liability" council faces trying to catch up on the infrastructure needs, equipment replacement, and other necessities.

"What we did this year by putting in a special levy for the infrastructure is something that we're going to have to continue to do," Carter said. "Because at some point those things need to be replaced."

Although the county's permanent population hasn't changed, Coun. Cecil Ryall, Highlands East's deputy mayor, said the number of part-time residents have been lengthening their stays.

"To the point where it's almost semi-resident," he said. "It affects the lower tiers' waste management significantly."

Ryall asked if it would be fair to expect costs of services such as the county paramedic service to be more difficult to control because more part-time residents stay longer in the county.

"That's correct, particularly for land ambulance services," Poloni said. "The more people you have, the more calls for service. It's like fire departments. To the extent that there's more (people) or they're staying longer, your seasons will start to expand."

Often what happens is a resident's expectations of municipal service levels increase the longer they stay, Poloni said.

> "It is an evolving situation. There's always benefits with respect to seasonal residents in terms of assessment, but there's also impacts from a cost perspective"
>
> **— OSCAR PELONI, MANAGING PARTNER KPMG LLP**

"What you'll find is the influx of people staying longer, what have you, will drive things like land ambulance services," he said. "But it will also drive expectations not of service quantum but service levels."

That rise in the expectations of residents about parks and recreation, emergency services, and waste management will be more acutely felt at the lower-tier municipal level.

"It is an evolving situation," Poloni said. "There's always benefits with respect to seasonal residents in terms of assessment, but there's also impacts from a cost perspective."

Oftentimes those cost impacts are uncontrollable, he said.

The county has an average income level against extremes of affordability, said Coun. Jennifer Dailloux, the deputy mayor of Algonquin Highlands. Haliburton County is of a mix between extremely wealthy residents and those who are incredibly vulnerable.

She asked if that dichotomy in Haliburton County is similar to the makeups of comparative communities Poloni used in his auditor's report.

Poloni said the information used came from Statistics Canada data. It's understood that the household income that's reported is for permanent residents, he said.

"If 60 per cent of the income (data) is influenced by people from Toronto who make $1-million a year, I don't believe that's reflected in the numbers," Poloni said. "I think these are year-round incomes that you're looking at there."

In terms of distribution, Poloni said he isn't certain how the county would compare to the other centres cited in his report.

Intergenerational properties influence the affordability figures, he said. Those are waterfront recreational properties inherited from great-grandparents to grandparents to parent. Those properties have come to be worth upwards of $2 million and are owned by people who work professions traditionally viewed as middle class.

"People who typically wouldn't have the income to buy that if they had to buy it," Poloni said. "Not everybody who owns a $2 million waterfront property in the Haliburton area actually makes $2 million a year."

There's a challenge in the number of variables that influence the analysis, he said.

"If there's 12 people listening to this presentation, there's 12 different analyses that could be done," he said. "We just don't have that level of detail to go into that level of analysis."

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Lax tax impacts

IF YOU are reading this and have not filed your taxes yet ruh-roh ol' Johnny Canuck may soon come a knockin' to collect coins for his coffers.

In Haliburton County, nothing is certain, except death and taxes. I swear I've heard Bob Carter say that. Or maybe it was some other guy…

It is wonderfully funny how taxes can be an anxiety-inducing hurdle and yet, if you do not file them, you can go to jail. What a fun little game.

Thankfully, my parents utilized the free tax clinics offered by the Heat Bank for filing their 2023 taxes. It was a seamless process that included free tea and cookies. They have nothing to say except for praise and to thank the Heat Bank for their kindness and wisdom towards taxes. They were even made aware of the Ontario Electricity Support Program that they qualify for, which will save them around $45 per month on their hydro bill.

THOMAS SMITH
Editor

I'd like to take a moment to thank the makers of TurboTax for lobbying to make the system of filing taxes needlessly complicated.

Are taxes a scam?

If you consider driveable roads, employment insurance, national defence, policing, border patrols, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and Parks Canada a scam, then sure, call it a scam. But the bottom line is everyone has got to do it, albeit begrudgingly.

I am very glad that I can recite the pythagorean theorem and chant the magical hymn SOHCAHTOA to anyone that is in-the-know, but I am confused over the tax system and do not even know where I would start to attempt to file taxes myself. Why don't they teach taxes in schools anymore? The school system nowadays acts as a meat grinder for students to perform optimally on provincial testing and yet we are left to fend for ourselves when it comes to taxes.

For some brave few, you may have decided to not file your taxes this year. Or perhaps you have never filed taxes throughout your life. In some ways I envy you as you simply do not worry over petty plebeian squabbles like filing taxes. On the other hand, I would never want to be caught dead going to prison for tax fraud. At least make it something movie worthy like robbing 3,000 tonnes of maple syrup, or stealing the declaration of independence.

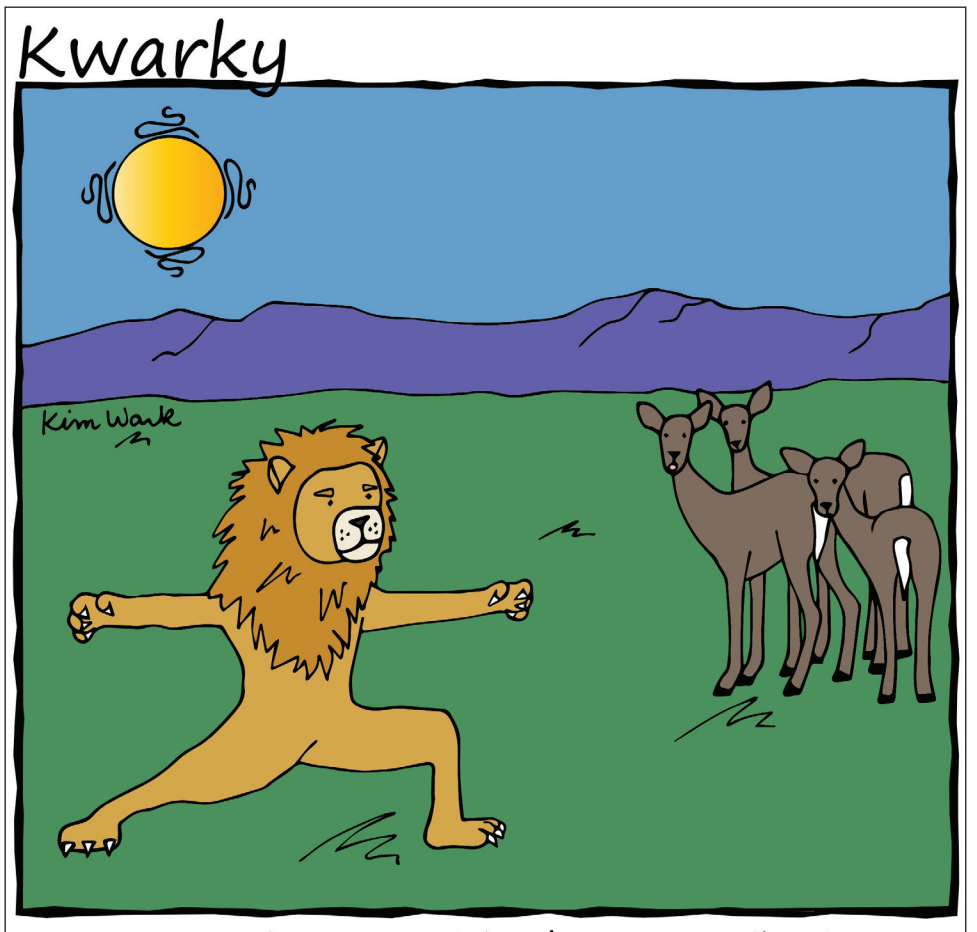
To summarize, there are many things that are great about tax season:

It justifies the piles of receipts that end up in your wallet when the cashier asks 'want your receipt?' and you always say yes for some reason.

If you have paid the government a excess amount of taxes throughout the year, you can kinda feel like you are stealing from the government for once.

After years of pleading your accountant brother-in-law to do your taxes, this is the year he finally agrees so you don't have to worry about taking your bins of papers to H&R Block again.

For those lucky (or unlucky?) enough to get some money back from the government this year, what are you spending your tax rebates on? My plan is to splurge on a little luxury I like to call groceries.



"Warrior pose! He's about to strike!"

A little sportsmanship please

I ADMIT THAT on the face of it, turkey hunting seems ridiculous.

We get up long before first light, put on expensive clothes designed to make us look like shrubbery, drive to a desolate location, and walk in the pitch black until we find the perfect spot to set up a rubber turkey or two. Then we sit on the damp ground and find a place to hide before commencing to do our best vocal imitation of a hen turkey that is in desperate need of some loving.

If all goes well, this will lead to a conversation with a male turkey. If all goes wrong, it leads to an unhealthy emotional attachment that can last for several seasons.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

Either way, we have no idea what we are saying to the birds. Yet, on occasion, our avian babbling will be sufficient to lure in a male bird to gun range. But, before we can shoot that bird, we must confirm that its beard is visible. Oh, we can also shoot hens, provided they have a visible beard too, which though rare, is not unheard of.

This leads me to believe a) that our turkey hunting regulations were written by men who really resented the fact that they could not grow a beard and b) we need to invest more taxpayer dollars into mental health and wellness.

Having said all that, I truly enjoy turkey hunting. But there are times when I think the birds forget about the expectation to be sporting.

A prime example occurred yesterday when we were leaving the field after a partially successful turkey hunt. I call it partially successful because we got to watch two hens and other wildlife, but primarily because we did not get soaked.

I could have lived with that hunt and, in fact, been quite satisfied. After all, in turkey hunting, you can't win them all.

But then, on the way home, I saw a big gobbler standing on a rock within arm's reach of the road, shaking off the rain as I drove by – and it occurred to me that he was not exactly being a good sport by flaunting his victory in my face. And, further down the road, I saw two more big birds in other fields doing the same. I hesitate to call this a trend, but it's sure starting to look that way.

In any case, I called the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to voice a complaint, but they would have none of it. Apparently, while we hunters are bound by all sorts of regulations and sporting traditions, the turkeys are not.

They didn't exactly say that, but it seemed to be the gist of their response. And by response, I mean they put me on hold for 45 minutes.

I think I can speak for many turkey hunters when I say this is just not right. Having said that, I will also acknowledge that many turkey hunters I discussed this with insisted it was me who was not right.

That may be so. But I wouldn't have minded if those gobblers were standing by the side of the road giving a respectful salute or nod, as decent competitors do.

But this was not the case. Between you and me, the gesture seemed more like the bird.

InOtherWords

Columns and Letters to the Editor

A deer in the headlights

THERE ARE times when the political tribalism consuming us seems like a cancer that cannot be cured. Today, thankfully, is not one of them.

I say this after reading - in of all places The New York Times Aug. 28 edition - a thoughtful and balanced analysis of Canada's issues, its weaknesses and how to start fixing them.

Commentary on our problems is based too often on opinions formed by people glancing at headlines or swallowing unedited, unsubstantiated social media junk.

JIM POLING SR.
From Shaman's Rock

Our opinions on the serious and dangerous problems facing us must be balanced and anchored on facts. The front-page New York Times piece, by Canadian writer Stephen Marche, does that.

Marche calls Prime Minister Justin Trudeau one of the world's great progressive leaders whose government has done good work, such as cutting child poverty in half. But he says Trudeau is weak in the face of growing political tribalisation, and his policies have created some of Canada's problems.

" ... a new generation has emerged, for which the liberal technocratic order his government represents, has failed to offer a path to a stable, prosperous future and the identity politics he once embodied have withered into vacuous schism."

He suggests that Trudeau's political career might end in failure because he is out of touch in a new world of extremism and division.

Today's world is not the one Trudeau entered as prime minister eight and one-half years ago. Internationally, there are new armed conflicts and the rise of extremist governments.

At home we see the decline of our vaunted health care system, a rise in racism, more violence and anti-government protests like the current Israel-Palestine debacle and the 2022 Freedom Convoy that held Ottawa hostage for a month.

Not to mention immigration. The Trudeau government has brought in hundreds of thousands of immigrants without considering how the increase would affect housing and other services. Its own bureaucrats warned that large increases in immigration would drive up housing costs because house construction was not keeping up with population growth.

All this has created an unhappy Canadian electorate that has turned away from political co-operation and adopted more political extremism and tribalism.

The World Happiness Report ranked Canada 15th, up two unhappiness points from 13th last year. More disturbing, it ranked Canada's young people 58th, the lowest among G7 countries.

In the midst of this stands a bewildered Trudeau: A deer in the headlights trying to understand what happened to the world of 2015.

His answer to much of this is for people to "recognize each other's pain" and be kind to each other.

The last time I looked, the Marche article had drawn close to 900 comments, an amazing number for a piece about Canada in an American newspaper. Some of the commentators had good things to say about the Trudeau years; others called him a sanctimonious lightweight with half-baked ideas.

Many commentators say it's time for him to go. So do most Canadians. A poll late last year found seven of 10 Canadians say he should resign in 2024.

I'm among the seven in 10 who say he should resign. Whether you believe he has been a good prime minister, or a bad one, it's time for him to go. He has been around too long and has lost touch with what is happening in the world and his own country.

The big problem is who would replace him. There is no one in the opposition parties.

We need to find new leaders capable of leading us out of the chaos being created by extremism and political tribalism.

It doesn't matter whether they call themselves Liberals, Conservatives or New Democrats. We need new leaders who put our country's well-being ahead of themselves or their parties.

It's not likely Trudeau will resign. He said in an interview earlier this year that he thinks about quitting "his "crazy job" every day but insisted he will stay until the next election, due in 2025.

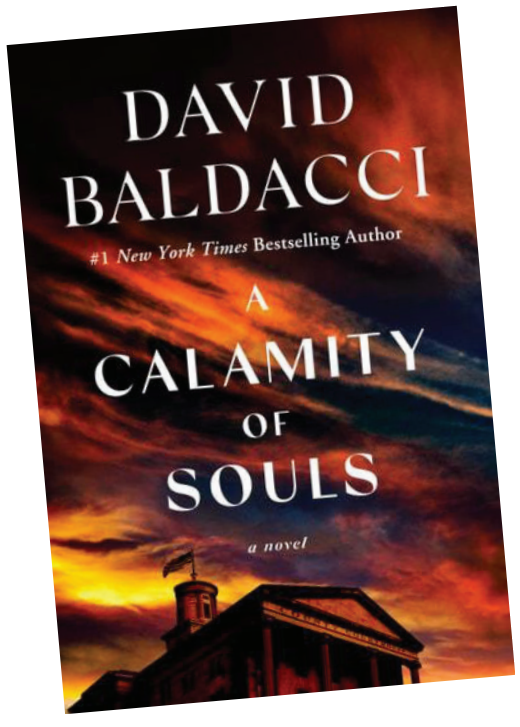
"I could not be the man I am and abandon the fight at this point," he said.

But he doesn't seem to realize that the longer he lingers, the more his prime ministership will be deemed a failure.

Minden Memories

This post card, circa 1909, was taken on Maple Avenue in Haliburton from in front of the present post office, looking toward Mountain Street. The John Lucas home, built in 1907, is on the left. /Photo courtesy of Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HCPL's Book of the Week



Jack Lee is a white lawyer from Freeman County, Virginia, who has never done anything to push back against racism, until he decides to represent Jerome Washington, a Black man charged with brutally killing an elderly and wealthy white couple. Lee quickly finds himself out of his depth when he realizes that what is at stake is far greater than the outcome of a murder trial. So Lee enlists the help of Desiree DuBose, a Black lawyer from Chicago who has devoted her life to equality.

On their own, neither one can stop the prosecution's deliberate march towards a guilty verdict and the electric chair. But together, the pair fight for what once seemed impossible: a chance for a fair trial and true justice.

A Calamity of Souls by David Baldacci is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

nomi
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OLG says OMG

OLG celebrated Kinmount Independent Grocer's sale of the recent $70,000,000 winning lottery ticket. The winners are Doug and Enid Hannon of Lakefield. / THOMAS SMITH Staff

Zen and the art of not keeping up

IF YOU are of a certain vintage you may be acquainted with the idiom "keeping up with the Joneses." It's a phrase that has come to reflect the feeling that we need to rise to some lofty ideal, the archetypical middle-class Joneses that have the things that "everyone" should have. A related idiom that, if you are of a somewhat different vintage, might be FOMO or Fear Of Missing Out. Again, this phrase also reflects our collective need to go with the crowd, do whatever everyone else is doing, or have the latest popular thing. These phrases reflect a deep-seated need that we all feel to "keep up" and the value judgements we make around not keeping up.

ERIN KERNOHAN-BERNING
Humans and Technology

The rapid pace of technology often hits people right in these types of feelings. People born in the 1930s for instance, have witnessed the rise of the telephone, television, computer, and internet – all brand-new technologies attaining household ubiquity in a human lifetime – and now we hold devices in our hands that encompass all those things and more. As someone with a foot in either the GenX or Millennial generations (depending who's opining on the topic), I remember life without the internet and we now live in a world where the internet pretty much touches the infrastructure of everything. That in itself has been a big change.

As the development of new technology propels the world in directions we can't quite fathom, it's easy to feel like we can't keep up. It's easy to feel that we've somehow failed when we have not mastered the latest, newest, fastest, shiniest something. We don't need to adopt or know how to use every scrap of new technology that crosses our path. We don't actually have to keep up. In fact, the most important thing we can do is let go of the idea that we have to keep up and concentrate on being open to learning how to do the actual thing that we want to do.

The only reason we really use technology is because it helps us get a particular thing done. Now, usually when I'm talking about technology, I'm talking about something like consumer electronics, or the internet – the notable "technology" of our time. We tend to put more moral judgement on our difficulties when using that kind of technology than any other. I've never heard someone disparage themselves for not knowing how to use a pair of knitting needles or a chainsaw the way they do when they struggle to use their computer or smartphone. But we wouldn't expect to be able to pick up a set of knitting needles and make a sweater the first time out, nor would we expect to be able to pick up a chainsaw without any sort of experience and cut down a giant tree.

The same goes for using a computer or a smartphone. Instead of taking the approach that we need to know "how to use it" and then feel like we failed when we struggle, we need to think about what we want to accomplish with the thing that we are using and then be gentle with ourselves when we don't quite get it right out of the gate. Rather than level judgement at our seeming lack of skill, we need to create an openness to learn so that we can do the thing we want to do – whether that's doing our online banking, starting a video call with a loved one, or reserving tickets online for an event you want to go to. And if this means asking someone for help, that's perfectly okay. If you concentrate on the task you want to complete, and practice doing it, then you'll eventually get good at it.

Likewise, even though planned obsolescence might push the issue a little bit, you don't necessarily need to keep up with the Joneses when it comes to having the latest gizmo. The most important factors that you need to consider when thinking about upgrading what you currently have are: is your current device now making it harder to do what you want to do? And is your current device able to operate safely?

The angst around technology, the pace at which it moves, and the feeling we need to be good at it all is valid. It's also counterproductive when it comes to moving through a world in constant flux. But if you take a breath and focus on the thing you want to actually do, and not worry about the rest, you might find that "keeping up" is no longer an issue. And you might even find that none of it is as hard as you think.

SUMMER GUIDE MAGAZINE IS COMING SOON!

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HaliburtonSummerGuide@gmail.com
no later than Tuesday May 14, at 5:00 pm

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County questions best makeup of STR appeals committee

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Each of Haliburton County's lower tier municipalities have retained a third party to handle the municipal accommodation tax when it's implemented.

Scott Ovell, the county's economic development and tourism director, told council when it met April 24 that each of the municipalities has secured Granicus to tax short-term rental (STR) operators and collect the four per cent municipal accommodation tax (MAT) when it is implemented in October.

"Right now, I believe staff are targeting early summer to basically open up the window for registration," Ovell said. "That allows for a robust period for communication, and get information out there, and deal with any issues we have."

County and staff at the four townships have meet to establish best practices and discuss what's been experienced thus far toward getting the short-term rental regulations off the ground.

"Really to help streamline the process and help get it up and running as fast as possible," Ovell said.

Ovell has met with three of the four municipalities to discuss the MAT.

According to 2023 data, the new MAT could generate as much as $2.2 million across the county. But indicated in a report to council that rental activity has decreased so far in 2024.

"That's really a snapshot in time and that's based off data we've been able to obtain from the Ministry of Tourism," Ovell said. "But also recognizing the accommodations space is really fluid and is really subject to micro and macro trends."

When developing the STR bylaw, it was agreed that a STR appeals committee would be a function of the county. The most common framework among other jurisdictions for an appeal or review committee is to add it to the scope for an existing business licensing and appeals committee that also deals with taxis, food trucks, parking tickets and some seasonal vendors.

As this framework does not currently exist here, the county will need to create a new framework.

Ovell said staff recommends that, for the remainder of council's term, the appeals committee be comprised of five members of council, with membership consisting of one representative from each township.

Warden Liz Danielsen, Algonquin Highlands' mayor, said she's eager to get a look at the terms of reference for the appeals committee.

"I think there might be a bit of discussion about who is going to sit on the appeals committee," she said.

"I don't believe that it should be politicians who are sitting on that appeals committee," said Councillor Bob Carter, Minden Hills' mayor. "We are already too busy with various committees and now this police detachment board has added another committee to what we do."

Carter referenced the new OPP Detachment Board that's been mandated by the province to be created.

"I would have it (appeals committee) made up of three staff people from the various councils on some sort of rotating basis so it doesn't take up too much of their time," Carter said.

That way, if somebody feels they had been refused a STR licence because of prejudice by a specific township council, they could make an appeal to the committee comprised of representatives of the other three township councils.

"Taking up more of our time for this process for licensing just doesn't make sense to me," Carter said.

"I do not think it's a good idea to put staff in that position," Danielsen said. "I would've proposed that each municipality have their representative that they appoint."

That person doesn't have to be a member of the upper tier county council, she said. The representative on the appeals committee may be somebody chosen from their township council.

"I would like to see a mixture of public representatives and council representatives," she said. "I think that would be fairer."

Coun. Cecil Ryall, Highlands East's deputy mayor, suggested the appeals committee be comprised of one individual from each township and one person from county council.

Ovell said it's been recommended that the appeal committee be comprised of the county's sitting warden and one person from each municipal council. That's a five-member panel.

"We haven't included the recommendation to include public representation at this time," Ovell said. "However, that is at your discretion to provide that direction to us to modify that. We'll just have to include that in the terms of reference."

"I do think it is important that we have at least a couple members of the appeals committee that are public," Danielsen said.

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Where: 20 George Street, Haliburton
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Scottish Country Dancing
When: Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9 p.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church, 10 George St.
Come One! Come All! Join us for a multigenerational, lively, rockin' good time! You don't have to be Scottish to enjoy Scottish Country Dancing. Beginners are always welcome, no partner required. Please bring soft soled indoor shoes. In order to plan the dances for the evening please RSVP to haliburtonscottishcountrydance@gmail.com byTuesday evening. $5 per person, per evening.

Stanhope and Community Fly-In to Spring
When: May 4, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: 1168 Stanhope Airport Rd, Algonquin Highlands
Bring the entire family to the 2024 Fly-In to Spring event! See antique and classic aircraft, enjoy a variety of food and drinks, and see model aeroplanes, firetrucks and MNR displays. Aeroplane and helicopter rides available. For more information contact Steve Dewey at sdewey@algonquinhighlands.ca

Village Vendor Market
When: May 4, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: Kinmount Fairgrounds, County Rd 503
Stop in to visit a wide variety of vendors and artisans to purchase crafts, homemade products, baked goods, kitchen stuff, home decor and so much more! If you are interested in being a vendor or if you would like more information email villagevendormarkets@gmail.com or call Lois at 705-928-5665.

Highlands Festival Singers present *Just For Laughs*
When: May 5 at 3 p.m. and May 7 at 7 p.m.
Where: Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St, Minden
The Highlands Festival Singers present *Just For Laughs*. A concert that is designed to tickle your funny bone and bring big smiles and laughs. $20 general admission tickets available at Master's Book Store in Haliburton, Minden Pharmasave, or by calling 705-457-4916. For children and family tickets please call 705-457-4916.

Youth Garden Club
When: May 7, 6 to 7 p.m.
Where: Minden Community Center, 55 Parkside St.
Please join the Minden & District Horticultural Society for the next meeting of the Youth Garden Club. The club is for children in grade 2 or higher that want to explore their interest in all things that grow. The May meeting will be getting the Cultural Pollinator garden ready to host the new pollinator plants.

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Here's to 90 Francis Thomas Contracting!

Francis Thomas Contracting is celebrating their 90th anniversary this year. A celebration of the company's rich history took place on April 25. Liz Danielsen, mayor of Algonquin Highlands and warden of Haliburton County and Jamie Schmale, MP were in attendance. /Submitted

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Three regions join against toxic street drug overdoses

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A regional drug strategy has been re-launched in answer to a rise in toxic street drugs and resultant overdoses and deaths.

The Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes Northumberland (HKLN) Drug Strategy has re-established to address what's being done toward harm reduction efforts in Haliburton County, the City of Kawartha Lakes, and Northumberland County.

It's a partnership of more than 35 organizations, departments, and individuals across the three counties that work directly or indirectly in social services, health care, or in harm reduction.

Working collaboratively, the HKLN Drug Strategy strives to foster supportive and safe environments that promote the health and resiliency of individuals, families, communities, and works to reduce the harms and stigma associated with substance use.

The HKLN Drug Strategy Steering Committee meets monthly to coordinate efforts to provide harm reduction supports and respond to growing trends in the toxic supply of drugs and drug poisonings. Work in undertaken by the HKLN Drug Strategy Steering Committee on a number of fronts.

The community survey Listening to Voices of Experience is analyzing information collected through a survey of people experienced in substance use. It's a measure to better understand drug use practices and what would be helpful to prevent overdose and drug poisonings.

Through collaboration, communication, and partnerships, the strategy shares information about what's happening in local communities by supporting conversations to address the drug poisoning crisis.

By way of a community situational assessment, the group is compiling population health and community data to explore harm reduction and drug poisoning prevention strategies.

Dane Record, the strategy's chairperson, said organizations crucial to hard reduction include the John Howard Society, the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit, PARN, and Green Wood Coalition.

They lead the recruitment of survey participants and implementation of the survey through peer support workers," Record said.

"It is critically important, now more than ever, that we continue to engage in ongoing dialogue between decision-makers and people with lived experiences related to the complex issues surrounding drug poisoning to better understand and plan harm reduction supports," said Record.

Other current priorities for the group are drafting a situational assessment of the four-pillar approach to address the drug poisoning crisis in Haliburton County, City of Kawartha Lakes, and Northumberland County.

It's paramount to continue community discussions to tackle the drug poisoning crisis, provide community learning events to address stigma, answer questions about harm reduction and the landscape of drug poisoning, and to advocate for policy solutions through the Drug Strategy Network of Ontario Framework.

"We are all impacted by the increase in drug poisonings in our communities," said Kate Hall, co-chairperson of the steering committee. "Knowing the signs of a drug poisoning and how to help can save lives.

"Members of the public can sign up to receive drug poisoning alerts and can also use the online submission form to anonymously report overdoses and drug-related information to assist in a more effective response to these incidents."

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit produces a weekly Opioid Overdose Report that provides current information on opioid poisonings and overdoses and deaths in the region.

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

FORM 6 - SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER
Municipal Act, 2001
Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sales Rules

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS

TAKE NOTICE that tenders are invited for the purchase of the land(s) described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on June 12, 2024, at the Township Office, 7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, Ontario, K0M 2K0.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day at 3:30 p.m. at the Township Office.

Description of Lands:

Legal Description:

1. **PT LT 4 CON A MINDEN AS IN H258825; MINDEN HILLS.**
BEING ALL OF PIN 39196-0090 (LT).
Roll # 46 16 033 000 40300 0000 – Township of Minden Hills
Municipal Address: 144 Bobcaygeon Rd, MINDEN, ON, K0M 2K0
Minimum Tender Amount: $136,830.95
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $355,000.00

2. **PT LT 21 CON 10 MINDEN PT 2 19R3430; S/T EXECUTION 05-0000339, IF ENFORCEABLE; S/T EXECUTION 92-0001067, IF ENFORCEABLE; S/T EXECUTION 95-0000874, IF ENFORCEABLE; S/T EXECUTION 97-0000340, IF ENFORCEABLE; MINDEN HILLS. BEING ALL OF PIN 39191-0006 (LT).**
Roll # 46 16 032 000 61500 0000 – Township of Minden Hills
Municipal Address: 1040 Soyers Lake Road, MINDEN, ON, K0M 2K0
Minimum Tender Amount: $17,279.50
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $118,000.00

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/money order payable to the municipality (or board).

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the land(s) to be sold. Any estates or interests of the Federal or Provincial Crown encumbering the land at the time of the tax sale will continue to encumber the land after the registration of the tax deed. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers.

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c.10 s.235 (the "Act"), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property. The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/tenderers comply with the Act and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale.

Transfers of property that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to a non-resident of Canada, foreign entity or taxable trustee are subject to the Province's Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the *Municipal Act, 2001*, and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as Land Transfer Tax, Non-Resident Speculation Tax and Harmonized Sales Tax.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the list for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender contact:

Sherry Mulholland, Deputy Treasurer
THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
7 Milne Street, P.O. Box 359, MINDEN, Ontario, K0M 2K0
Telephone: (705) 286-1260, Ext. 501
Email: smulholland@mindenhills.ca
Township website: www.mindenhills.ca

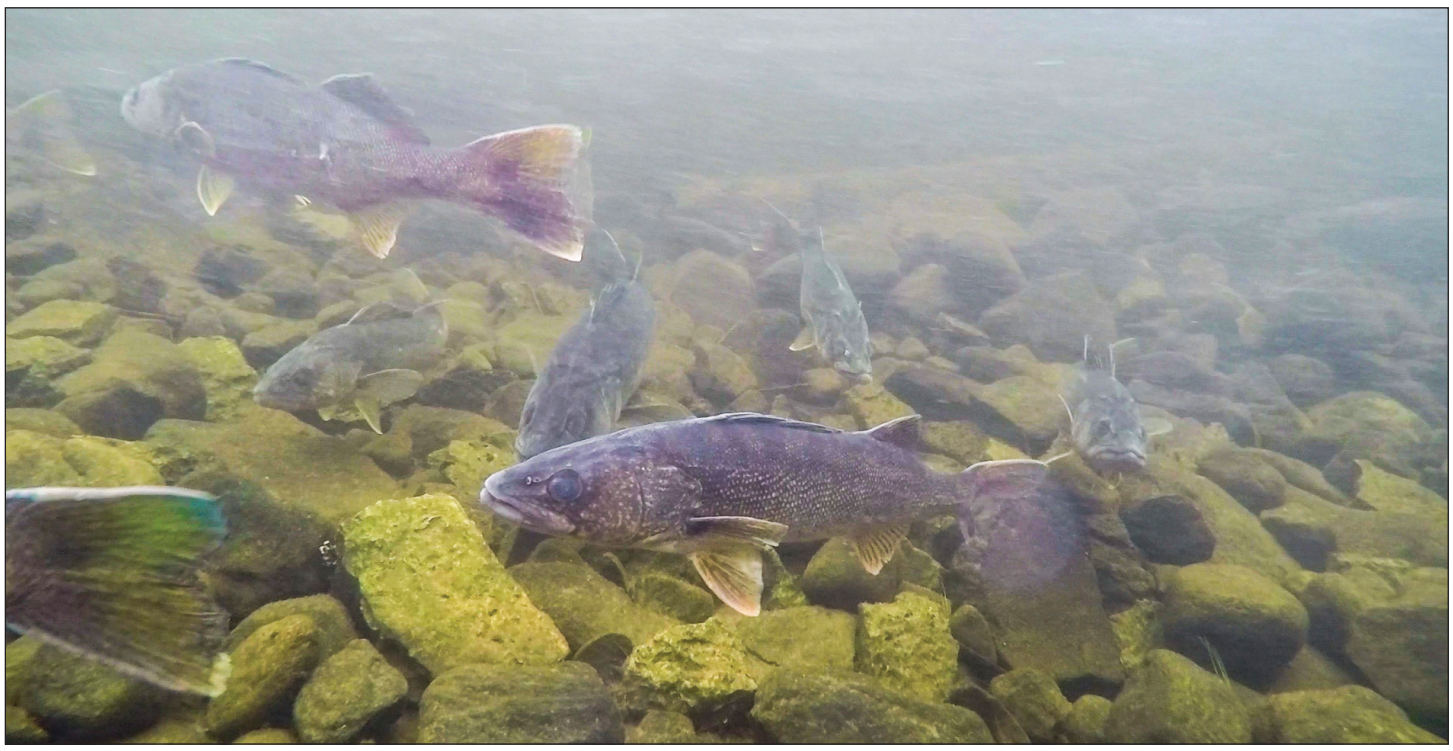
You can't see me

Some say that there is a remarkable female fisher in this photo. I only see some branches. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

Walleye continue to spawn in the Drag River

Lake Kashagawigamog Chain walleye have completed their annual spawning run on the Drag River below the Emmerson Dam in Haliburton. Once again, Haliburton Highlands Outdoor Association (HHOA) volunteers counted the spawning fish. The effort is part the HHOA's Walleye Watch Program that was reinstated in 2021 to help rehabilitate the Kashagawigamog Chain walleye fishery. This year HHOA volunteers counted 1,007 walleyes over 29 nights. Last year, 1,438 walleyes were counted.

"Unfortunately, spawning walleye numbers have declined in recent years. Prior to 2015 when the HHOA was actively assisting the spawn, as many as 6,000 fish were counted per year at the Drag River site. In the last four years we've counted an average of around 1,450 fish per year. The Walleye have a lot working against them," said Dan Smith, president of the HHOA.



Walleye spawn in the Drag River in downtown Haliburton. /Photo by Elian Grigore, HHOA volunteer

The original "Walleye Watch Program" began in the early 2000s and ran for 15 years. During that time the HHOA worked with the MNRF to harvest Drag River walleye eggs from spawning fish and hatch them in the HHOA fish hatchery. Walleye fingerlings were then returned to the Kashagawigamog Chain. This effort helped ensure more walleye survived the spawn. Unfortunately, walleye stocking was stopped in 2015 and current Fisheries Management Zone 15 rules prohibit the HHOA from assisting the fishery. The Drag River site is considered one of the most important walleye spawning areas in the region.

The spawning walleye face many other challenges as well. Black Crappie were illegally introduced to the Kashagawigamog system and are known to feast on immature walleye. Additionally, after the walleye deposit their eggs, it is critical that water levels and flow below the private Emmerson dam remains consistent for at least two weeks after the spawn ends. Without proper water flow the walleye eggs can be exposed and the spawn will not be successful. HHOA lobbies Parks Canada every year to maintain the water levels, but that effort has not always been successful.

The HHOA conducted an angling survey of the Kashagawigamog Chain of Lakes in 2021. Of those responding, 82 per cent cited a significant decline in walleye fishing on the chain.

The Haliburton Highlands Outdoor Association helps create, maintain, and enhance local fisheries. Its mission is to help residents and visitors to the Haliburton Highlands enjoy angling opportunities while practicing good conservation. Since 1998, the HHOA has raised and stocked over 800,000 fish in local lakes. For more information on the HHOA and the Walleye Watch Program visit: www.hhoa.on.ca/news.

Submitted by the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association

HHSS knock-off into spring

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School boys rugby team practices on a chilly morning on the Gary Brohman Athletic Field last week to prepare for their first upcoming games in May. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

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Answers on page 9

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The ideal candidate will have post-secondary education (environmental studies, environmental sciences, environmental tech, ecosystems management, biology, or related field) and field knowledge of ecological monitoring and biological sampling methods (OBBN certification and/or experience with vegetation sampling protocols are preferred).

This is a 1-year contract starting May 13th. Pay rate: $23/hr. Access to up to 5,000.00 in professional development funding, mileage compensation and a comprehensive benefits package are included for this position. For a full job description and the link to pre-qualify for EcoCanada, go to www.ulinks.ca

Email a detailed cover-letter and resume to admin@ulinks.ca by May 2nd, 23:59 EST.

This position is funded by EcoCanada. Candidates must be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or person granted refugee status in Canada, be eligible to work in Canada and be between the ages of 15-30 (inclusive) at the start of employment. To be eligible for EcoCanada internships you must be approved by EcoCanada. Go to www.eco.ca to pre-qualify.

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Are you passionate about the environment and keen to make a difference at the community level?
U-Links is looking for an enthusiastic, self-directed individual to work with our community-based research team. Under the supervision of the U-Links Program Coordinator and the U-Links Director, you will play a pivotal role in supporting the Woodlands and Waterways EcoWatch program, along with contributing to various environmental research initiatives led by U-Links.

The ideal candidate will either have or be engaged in post-secondary education (environmental studies, environmental sciences, biology, or similar disciplines) and field knowledge of ecological monitoring and biological sampling methods (OBBN certification and/or experience with vegetation sampling protocols are preferred). Reliable access to a vehicle is required.

This is an 8-week contract from May 13th to July 8th, 2024 with the possibility of extension (up to 38 weeks) depending on funding. Compensation: $21/hour + mileage + vacation pay. For a full job description and more details go to www.ulinks.ca

Email a detailed cover-letter and resume to admin@ulinks.ca by May 2nd, 23:59 EST

This position is funded by Canada Summer Jobs. must be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or person granted refugee status in Canada, be eligible to work in Canada and be between the ages of 15-30 (inclusive) at the start of employment.

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

540 COMING EVENTS

Haliburton County Snowmobile Assocation: Annual General Meeting. Saturday May 11, at 9:30 am at the Haliburton Legion, on Mountain Street. Regular business and the election of new Directors. Come meet the team! Everyone Welcome. For further info **705-457-4263 or info@hcsa.ca**

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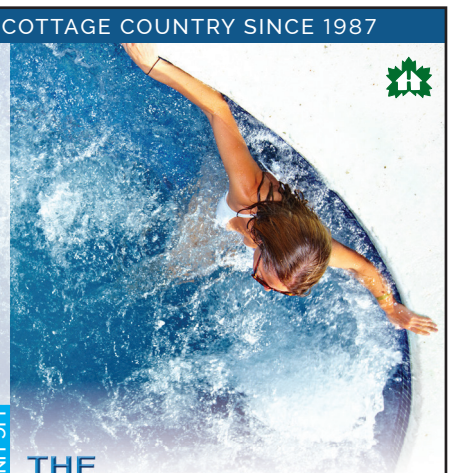

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Highlands dairy farm wins Canadian honours

The best, most nutritious milk in all Canada comes from a herd of Jersey cows on a farm near West Guilford. That fact was confirmed recently when Bud and Paula Kirchner received several awards from the National Jersey Assocation.

The awards, presented annually, are based on samples taken by a government technician. The Kirchners had the highest average increase in production for the past year, setting an all-time Canadian record. They also set a record for having the highest percentage of butterfat and protein ever recorded. The awards mean that the Kirchner herd is made up of the best of the breed.

The awards were the result of 12 years of planning and hard work by the Kirchners. While conducting scientific research at the University of Toronto, the couple became interested in starting a small family-operated farm. Having seen many such farms on the rocky, hilly land of New York State and New Zealand, they were convinced that a dairy farm could be successful in Haliburton County. They were attracted to the area because there was not a heavy buildup of chemicals in the soil from previous farming operations.

The Kirchners purchased their property, began clearing the land and bought their first cow. They chose a Jersey because, of the five breeds of dairy cows, the Jersey produces the highest quality milk, At present, the family milk 20 of the 30 registered Jerseys in the herd.

Bud believes that there are two secrets to success; genetics and management. In order to improve the herd, all of the cows are bred artificially using semen that is

(more on page 3)

Jody Kirchner and one of the family's prizewinning cowns, Lueese.

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Reflections

Wednesday, May 16, 1984

Visitors pause to examine an exhibit during a field day held in the Victoria County Forest on Saturday. The event was sponsored by the Ministry of Natural Resources to commemorate National Forest Week. In spite of the ideal weather, the event drew a sparse attendance.

Payment issue deferred

A decision on whether to pay members of the Planning Advisory Committee for the time they spend at meetings was delayed until the May 24 meeting of the Anson, Hindon and Minden municipal council.

The decision was delayed because of the absence of Councillor Gary Kenney. He was in Toronto where his wife had just given birth to a son.

The bylaw was introduced by Deputy Reeve Ed Pergolas who noted that under the provisional Planning Act the municipality could pay the members of the committee for their

(more on page 2)

Three phase development suggested for Minden park

A proposal for the development of the park area east of the library-cultural centre and south of the arena was presented to Anson, Hindon and Minden council at the May 10 meeting. The proposal was prepared by Brian Sisson in consultation with members of the Parks Committee.

The proposal broke the development of the area into three phases. The first would see the creation of a water fowl park. This would involve the dredging of a one and a half to two acre pond which would extend into the wooded area on the north side of the park. This would provide the ducks with a nesting area and enhance the asthetics of the display.

The report points out that the dredging would likely be the most expensive part of the initial phase.

A boardwalk would then be built to allow visitors to have a vantage point from which to observe the water fowl on and near the pond. It was suggested that diferent species of wild flowers and native trees could be planted throughout the park to increase the value of the area for nature study.

A parking lot to serve the water fowl park would be constructed behind the new museum site.

It was suggested that material for the boardwalk would be taken from municipal property in Ingoldsby and areas slated for industrial development.

(more on page 2)

School name honours director

The Haliburton Highlands Senior Elementary School will be renamed in honour of retiring Director of Education Doug Hodgson. The official announcement of the change was made Friday evening was the Haliburton County Board of Education honoured a number of employees for their many years of service.

The new name of the school will be the J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School.

The announcement of the name change cited Mr. Hodgson's "...outstanding service to the school system and the people of Haliburton County.

Mr. Hodgson has served as Director of Education since January 1969 when area school board were amalgamated under one county-wide board. He had previously served as principal of the Haliburton Highlands District High School and the Millbrook High School.

His teaching experience began in 1946 when he taught at a one room school at Harburn. Other teaching posts included the Minden Continuation School; the Wilmot Township High School Board in Plattsville; the Haliburton Highlands District High School; Stratford Collegiate Institute.

The board also paid tribute to a number of other employees. Among those honoured were Mrs. Audrey Harris, a teacher at Cardiff School; Mrs. Betty Hicks, a teacher at Archie Stouffer Elementary School, Minden; and Mr. Randal McCrea, a bus operator in the eastern part of the county.

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